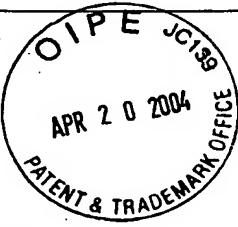


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                                |   |                      |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Applicant(s): Maruyama, et al. |  | Atty. Dkt.: 02-101   |
| Serial No.: 10/670,512         |   | Group Art Unit: 2854 |
| Filed: September 26, 2003      |   | Examiner: Unknown    |
| Title: <b>WASHER EQUIPMENT</b> |   |                      |

Commissioner for Patents  
Arlington, VA 22202

Date: April 20, 2004

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are being submitted for consideration by the Examiner without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, or without any admission that they contain subject matter that anticipates the invention or renders the invention obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Further, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e), the undersigned hereby certifies that each listed reference was first cited in a Communication (copy enclosed) from a foreign patent office in connection with a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

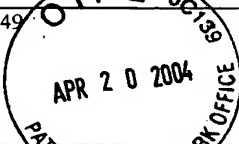
Although no fees are believed to be due at this time, it is respectfully requested that any such fees be charged to Deposit Account 50-1147. Also, the Examiner is requested to initial the attached PTO Form-1449 and to return a copy of same to the undersigned attorney as proof that the listed references have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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|               |  |                                   |                            |
|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| FORM PTO-1449 |  | ATTY. DKT NO. <b>02-101</b>       | SER. NO. <b>10/670,512</b> |
|               |  | APPLICANT <b>Maruyama, et al.</b> |                            |
|               |  | FILING DATE <b>Sept. 26, 2003</b> | GROUP <b>2854</b>          |

## REFERENCE DESIGNATION

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE     | NAME              | CLASS | SUB CLASS |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|----------|-------------------|-------|-----------|
|                     |  | 6,354,515          | 03/12/02 | Matsumoto, et al. |       |           |
|                     |  |                    |          |                   |       |           |
|                     |  |                    |          |                   |       |           |
|                     |  |                    |          |                   |       |           |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

## TRANSLATION

|  |  | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE     | COUNTRY | NAME | CLASS | SUB<br>CLASS | YES               | NO |
|--|--|-----------------|----------|---------|------|-------|--------------|-------------------|----|
|  |  | FR 2 548 606    | 01/11/85 | France  |      |       |              | Engl.<br>Abstract |    |
|  |  | DE 198 54 127   | 05/31/00 | Germany |      |       |              | Engl.<br>Abstract |    |
|  |  | EP 1 082 999    | 03/14/01 | Europe  |      |       |              | Engl.<br>Abstract |    |
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|  |  |                 |          |         |      |       |              |                   |    |
|  |  |                 |          |         |      |       |              |                   |    |

\* Full English text of the JP Document will be available in machine-translated form from JP (Japanese Patent Office) English language web site at <http://www1.ipdl.jpo.go.jp/PA1/cgi-bin/PA1INDEX>.

## OTHER REFERENCES (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

|          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
|          |  | European Search Report dated March 4, 2004. |
|          |  |   |
| EXAMINER |  | DATE CONSIDERED                             |